## AmeriCorps

Florida's AmeriCorps programs created a positive educational climate for 57,324 students through tutoring, mentoring, and educational services in 718 schools.  More than 83 percent of students who received a full year of tutoring improved their academic skills.  One example is Jenna Gonzalez, a City Year Orlando AmeriCorps member.  She serves in a 9th grade English class, working tirelessly to help students improve their grades. She gives students personalized attention through classroom pull-outs and afterschool tutoring. She said that "a student of mine started the month off with an F in English and came up to me last week asking if I could check his grade and now he has a B! I'm so proud of him."

## AmeriCorps NCCC

AmeriCorps NCCC team River 3 served with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami. The team led a daily average of 150-200 volunteers, totaling 1,706 volunteers at the end of two weeks. AmeriCorps NCCC  members started and completed 13 houses and worked on 17 other houses. The team worked alongside 33 families who were directly affected by the work done by River 3.  Volunteers who worked with the team had a positive experience and were encouraged to continue volunteering. The team gained skills in both construction and leadership.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

To help increase student performance, Heart of Florida United Way, Orange County Public Schools, and six AmeriCorps VISTA members established and support a coalition to build capacity, coordinate programming, manage volunteers, and facilitate interaction between schools, and community partners in Orlando. The VISTA members focus on building partnerships that boost key measurable student outcomes — attendance, behavior and course performance — and improve low-performing schools.  In 2012,  VISTAs successfully engaged 392 volunteers that contributed approximately 900 hours to assist students and teachers at the target schools.

## Senior Corps

As part of efforts to reduce health care costs and support families caring for aging loved ones at home, Seniors in Service of Tampa Inc. has been able to provide respite care through the Senior Companion Program. A 96-year old client was living in a nursing home when the family decided to bring her home and received the services of a SCP volunteer. The SCP volunteer helps preserve the client's dexterity and mental well-being through a series of physical and communication exercises. The client is now 103-years old, and the family acknowledges without the SCP volunteer they would be forced to  institutionalize the client in the nursing home.

## Social Innovation Fund

Housing Partnership, Inc. (HPI) is implementing a "shared equity homeownership" program to address a decline in homeownership rates among low-income families. The program enables new homebuyers in Palm Beach and Broward counties to partner with a government or nonprofit agency acting as a co-investor to reduce homeownership costs.  In return, homebuyers will agree to limit, or share, their equity appreciation to preserve affordability so that the initial public investment can ultimately serve more families.  With their annual Social Innovation Fund subgrant of $130,000 from intermediary NCB Capital Impact and their dollar-for-dollar matching funds, HPI anticipates adding 235 new shared equity homes over five years.

## Volunteer Generation Fund

In 2012, Volunteer Florida was awarded a Volunteer Generation Fund grant, which was subgranted to 13 organizations for Volunteer Florida's BEST Neighborhoods Program. BEST Neighborhoods, which stands for "Build, Engage, Sustain, Transform," is a program based on "neighboring," a model concept of community engagement that uses volunteering as a tool to empower, mobilize and facilitate positive changes within communities. Instead of identifying problems, neighboring highlights the strengths in a community and engages leaders within that community to identify needs and create solutions.